

Fall 1998

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John M. Pfau Library

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JOHN M. PFAU LIBRARY Newsletter

California State University, San Bernardino

<http://www.lib.csusb.edu>

Fall 1998



LIBRARY DATABASES COME TO YOUR HOME!

By Buckley Barrett, Head, Automation Services



Starting this fall, a number of the Pfau Library's research databases can be accessed from your home and other remote sites instead of from only on campus. All you need is an Internet connection!


Some of the research files now accessible off campus include: EBSCOhost (full-text periodical articles from more than 1500 academic journals and general magazines), WilsonWeb (article citations and summaries with selected full-text), I.D.E.A.L. and MUSE (a pair of specialized, scholarly journal services in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences), Dow Jones (a wide array of business and news articles, statistics, and more), Lexis Nexis (a galaxy of business, legal, and general data), and Britannica Online (the total Encyclopedia Britannica including graphics and web links along with full essays).

We still encourage students and faculty to visit and call our Reference Department for professional consulting, class-related bibliographic instruction, and intensive research via the full range of open and restricted databases that provide citations, abstracts, and sometimes full-text. The new 'proxy-server' capabilities, however, will allow patrons to more effectively and conveniently manage their study time by conducting at least some of their information searches from home or other locations off-campus.

In order to utilize this new method, you will need to first configure the browser on your computer at home. The proxy server capability comes automatically built into a number of newer versions of Netscape and Internet Explorer, and you can find set-up instructions at the Pfau Library homepage (www.lib.csusb.edu) by clicking on the Remote Access Licensed Databases button. Unfortunately, patrons with America Online (AOL) accounts will have to download a free version of an 'outside' browser, such as Netscape, in order to access the Library's databases from off-campus; currently, the AOL browser does not support the proxy server configuration.

Once remote machines are configured for access, the Library's proxy server machine will request your Coyote OneCard barcode number and your social security number for authentication each time you load up your Netscape or other browser. Anyone who already possesses a Coyote OneCard will not have to go through anymore sign-up than the software configuration mentioned.

We apologize for any awkward difficulties with the configuration procedure, which does represent one of the more advanced and reliable arrangements we could find. A number of other campuses from the California State University system have implemented similar methods for ID verification, and we continue to hunt for simpler techniques to utilize in the future.

The Pfau Library welcomes your inquiries about the proxy-server methods and offerings, and we look forward to introducing an expanded array of electronic resources to better assist with your research in all disciplines. 



Plagiarism: Internet Style

By Susan Tschabrun, Reference/Electronic Resources Librarian

I've never had to go to the library again. I can find all I need at EHOC [Evil House of Cheat], you guys are great. Love, Christie. Christie Albright, Atlanta

Meet Christie—one of the many satisfied customers served by the Evil House of Cheat (www.cheathouse.com) since its establishment about three years ago. Student plagiarism, always an issue, may be verging on an epidemic with the rapid growth of Web term paper mills. A1 Term paper (www.a1-termpaper.com), Schoolpapers.com (www.schoolpapers.com), and the granddaddy of them all, School Sucks (www.schoolsucks.com), are only three of the estimated 72+ sites where students can download essays and term papers.¹ The Evil House of Cheat makes almost 10,000 papers in 40 categories available to its "Super Users" for the great low price of \$11.95 per year. School Sucks, with over 2 million visitors as of September, 1998, offers its term papers for free.

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PHONE NUMBERS

Add 880 to extensions
below for off campus.

Public Services

Library Information	5084
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Reference	5091
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Campus Operator	5000

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contact (909) 880-5118 or
susant@mail.csusb.edu

Plagiarism: Internet Style

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Why Students Plagiarize

In the early days of the Web term paper mills, there were those who thought that the openness of some term paper Web sites would in itself curb plagiarism since nothing prevented suspicious professors from accessing sites like School Sucks themselves. Nowadays, given the spectacular proliferation of papers available through the Web—whether for sale, free, or custom-written—getting caught becomes less and less likely. Technological solutions to the problem have been proposed, such as computer programs that scan and compare bits of similar text, but such programs can hardly be expected to keep up with the flood of new material coming online every week. More effective solutions are likely to come from understanding why students plagiarize.

Although there are undoubtedly cynical students who plan to cheat from the very first day of class, the vast majority of students who resort to cyberplagiarism do so in desperation. Students find themselves in a last-minute panic for a variety of reasons: poor time management, a lack of confidence in their writing skills, and an insecurity about finding, evaluating, and using information resources. Instructors can address all of these issues by viewing paper assignments as processes, not just outcomes.

Preventing Cyberplagiarism

Plagiarism is much less likely to occur when students are guided through the process of writing and library research. The process of writing can be guided by requiring the students to turn in a brief statement of their paper topic early on in the term. Later, instructors can ask to view notes, outlines, first drafts, or revisions before the final paper is graded. Short instructor-student conferences will help to identify any emerging problems and make sure that the paper topic chosen is consistent with the goals and objectives of the course. Peer groups can assist by commenting on early drafts of the student's paper. A student whose writing is followed from early conceptualization through final draft in this way is unlikely to find a canned term paper useful.

Students also need guidance through the information gathering and evaluating stages of paper writing. The searching skills a student needs to find School Sucks on the Web amount to nothing more than typing the key words, "term paper," into the search line of an Internet search engine, like Yahoo. The library research skills necessary to compile even a modest bibliography on a given subject have always challenged students and have become more complex with the proliferation of new electronic resources. Many of the term papers available for sale on the Web are old and out-of-date. Instructors can require students to turn in bibliographies before the paper is due to check on the currency and relevancy of the resources used. Many students can benefit from coming to the library to be instructed in the latest information searching techniques and to experience firsthand the excitement of discovery that comes when students become skilled researchers.

To quote Tom Rocklin in his article titled, "Downloadable Term Papers: What's a Prof. to Do?"

A student who hands in a plagiarized paper has not bought into the instructor's goals for a course. The plagiarist and the instructor are in an adversial [sic] relationship. Somehow, the student has come to conclude that the goal is to "beat" the instructor, to fool the teacher. ... If we ask students to complete assignments of demonstrable value and offer to work with them as they complete their assignments, they are likely to join us in the educational enterprise we envision.²

Contact Les Kong, Head of Public Services, 880-5111 to schedule a library instruction session for your class.

¹ 72 sites was the count as of March, 1998. Anthony Krier, Reference Librarian at Franklin Pierce College, who had been maintaining a database of web term paper sites, was forced to give up the project in March due to "overwhelming demand". Personal communication, September 16, 1998.


² Tom Rocklin (1996). Downloadable Term Papers: What's a Prof. to Do? Available: www.uiowa.edu/~centeach/newsletter/online-exclusives/term-paper-download.html (Accessed 9/15/98).



By Xiwen Zhang, Electronic Resources Librarian

Ever wondered exactly which electronic resources Pfau Library makes available to the CSUSB campus community? Where to access them? How to use them? Whether they are available from home? If so, be sure to check out the new Navigational Guide available on the Library homepage (www.lib.csusb.edu). Simply click on the CSUSB Electronic Resources Online Catalog/Databases button and select Navigational Guide to find a wealth of information on each one of Pfau Library's electronic resources.

All the Library's licensed databases are there, whether they are available in the library as single-user CD-ROMs, CD-ROM networked databases, telnet accessible online resources, or Web databases accessible from home. Information about the resources are arranged in two ways: by subject and by title in alphabetical order. Whether you find a database by browsing by subject or title, you will get a description of the database, information about its location, and a guide for using it.

The database guides follow a standard format: brief description, how to access, how to search, how to move through the database, how to print, download, and how to exit. Special operators and truncation features are described in each guide. You can also learn some advanced searching techniques by following search examples for the different databases. 

Library Goings On

Buckley Barrett, Head of Automation Services, utilized a sabbatical this summer to work on two monograph publications. The first time period involved final updating and editing of a 250-page annotated, evaluative bibliography of the books by and about Sir Winston Churchill. The title should appear from Borgo Press in early 1999 and already shows in the catalog of the Library of Congress. In the second phase of his release time, Barrett commenced a similar project concerning English-language books on Adolf Hitler. This latter work will cover several hundred selected monographs and will be issued by Greenwood Press upon completion. Both titles relate to Buckley's earlier reference publications on World Wars I and II and his co-authored books with Marty Bloomberg (formerly of the Library) on Stalin and on the Holocaust.


Les Kong, Head of Library Public Services, is completing his 1998 term as President of California Academic & Research Libraries (CARL), the state chapter of the Association of College & Research Libraries. Les' major focus for the last 15 months has been the planning of CARL's Sixth Annual Conference, "Collaborative Adventures, Collaborative Efforts: Academic Libraries in Partnerships." The two-day conference was attended by some 200 librarians at the Sutton Place Hotel in Newport Beach, on September 11-12, 1998. Les has also been active in the California Library Association, the statewide professional association which has constituent members from all segments of the library community. He is completing his first year as a member of the Executive Committee, and the Assembly, both primary leadership groups in the organization.

Bonnie Petry, Reference Librarian, was awarded tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Librarian effective September 1998. She has created a companion Web site for the Information Jungle, a web-based tutorial to get students started using the Internet. Called The Electrified Library, the new site brings together in one convenient location a selected list of scholarly, full text Internet resources, databases, and more. The address is: www.lib.csusb.edu/bpetry/ELibrary/ELibrary.html.

Barbara Quarton, Library Intern, has just completed an addition to the Pfau Library's home page called The Research Survival Guide. This Web site provides basic information on the research process. The address is: www.lib.csusb.edu/bpetry/rsg/rsg.html.

University Librarian, Johnnie Ann Ralph, has been appointed to the San Bernardino County Museum Association, Board of Directors. She also serves as President, City of San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society.

Susan Tschabrun, Reference/Electronic Resources Librarian, served as Project Director for a \$15,000 Getty Electronic Cataloguing Initiative Planning Grant this past year. The grant has enabled the Center for the Study of Political Graphics in Los Angeles to extensively plan for cataloguing and digitizing its unique 30,000-piece international and domestic political poster collection. The planning grant resulted in a Getty implementation grant proposal which, if funded, will raise around \$250,000 towards implementation of the project in 1999-2001. In addition, Susan, together with Prof. Kathryn Green of the History Dept., has received \$5000 from CSUSB to fund general operating expenses associated with their Web site, Africa Research Central: A clearinghouse of African primary sources (africa-research.csusb.edu). Africa Research Central, launched in January, 1997, has received national recognition as a major source of scholarly information on African archival and other primary source repositories worldwide. Finally, Susan has been awarded a \$5000 minigrant to plan and prototype a Web-based, multimedia library instruction module in collaboration with faculty here at CSUSB.

Xiwen Zhang, Electronic Resources Librarian, served as one of the editors and a contributor to Earth System Science Encyclopedia (in Chinese) published in May, 1998 by China Science and Technology Press. This important 1,229-page encyclopedia represents the cooperative efforts of more than 500 mainland and overseas Chinese scholars and reflects the great advances of Chinese scholars in the earth sciences since 1985. 

LIBRARY HOURS

Library

Monday-Thursday

8am-11pm

Friday

8am-5pm

Saturday

9am-5pm

Sunday

2pm-11pm

Reference Desk (First Floor)

Monday-Thursday

9am-9pm

Friday

9am-5pm

Saturday

9am-5pm

Sunday

2pm-6pm

Info Den (Fifth Floor)

Monday-Thursday

1pm-6pm

Friday

1pm-5pm

Saturday

Closed

Sunday

Closed

Periodicals Service Desk (Third Floor)

Monday-Thursday

1pm-9pm

Friday

1pm-5pm

Saturday

9am-1:00pm

Sunday

2pm-6pm

CALENDAR

Sunday, January 24, 1999

2:00 p.m.

Louis Fuentes, cameraman for Huell Howser, speaking on "California Gold: Behind the Camera." Visual Arts Auditorium, CSU San Bernardino. For more information call, (909) 880-5102.

Saturday, May 1, 1999

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Fourth Annual Harry Rheubottom/George Webster Local History Lecture: "Biddy Mason: African American pioneer in old San Bernardino." One-person show by Sandra Kamusikiri, Chair, English Department, CSU San Bernardino. Pfau Library second floor. For more information call, (909) 880-5102.



John M. Pfau Library Associates

The Library Associates was founded to promote the relationship between the university, its library, and the community, increase public awareness of the resources and services of the John M. Pfau Library,

and sponsor cultural programs such as exhibits, lectures and other events. Members of the Library Associates make full use of the library, including borrowing library materials on the same basis as CSUSB students, reference assistance, and low cost interlibrary loan service.

Categories of membership:

Single/Family	\$20.00 per year
Business	\$50.00 per year
Life Member	\$100

Membership applications are available at the Pfau Library Circulation Desk, or call (909) 880-5090.



**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO**

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